

Remarks

The Office Action mailed November 17, 2004 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendments have been made as a consequence thereof.

Claims 1-15 are now pending in this application and Claims 16-20 have been cancelled. Claims 1-15 stand rejected.

The defectiveness of the oath or declaration under 37 CFR 1.67(a) is respectfully traversed. Applicants attach herewith copies of the previously filed Declarations and Power of Attorney and the postcard previously filed with the Patent and Trademark Office on February 4, 2002. For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants request that the objection to the declaration be withdrawn.

The objection to Claims 3 and 8 due to an informality is respectfully traversed. Applicants have amended Claim 3 to recite "wherein said appliance connection is a serial bus connection." Additionally, Applicants have amended Claim 8 to recite "wherein said processing circuitry further comprises...." For the reasons set forth above, Applicants request that the objection to Claims 3 and 8 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-7 and 10-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Bailey et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,731,201) is respectfully traversed.

Bailey et al. describe a communication module (300) adapted to be received by an appliance (100) having an appliance controller (201). The communication module includes a power supply (310), a communication protocol translator (320), a power line communication transceiver (330), and a line driver (340). The protocol translator translates signals received from a communication media into appliance controller signals, and vice versa.

Claim 1 recites a communication interface for interfacing an appliance with a power line carrier communication system, wherein the power line carrier communication system transmits a message packet relating to an appliance command, the message packet being

encrypted and including authentication data, the communication interface includes “at least one power line connection for coupling said communication interface to a power line...at least one appliance communication connection for coupling said communication interface to an appliance...processing circuitry for receiving a power line carrier transmission including the message packet...processing circuitry for authenticating the received message packet...processing circuitry for decrypting the received message packet...processing circuitry for transmitting the decrypted message packet to the appliance.”

Bailey et al. do not describe nor suggest a communication interface for interfacing an appliance with a power line carrier communication system as recited in Claim 1. Specifically, Bailey et al. do not describe nor suggest a communication interface including processing circuitry for receiving a power line carrier transmission including a message packet, processing circuitry for authenticating the received message packet, processing circuitry for decrypting the received message packet, and processing circuitry for transmitting the decrypted message packet to the appliance. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Bailey et al. merely describes a communication module adapted to be received by an appliance having an appliance controller. The communication module includes a power supply, a communication protocol translator, a power line communication transceiver, and a line driver. The protocol translator translates signals received from the power line communication transceiver into appliance controller signals, and vice versa. Notably, Bailey et al. does not describe nor suggest authentication of signals and decryption of signals. Accordingly, Claim 1 is respectfully submitted to be patentable over Bailey et al.

Claims 2-7 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-7 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 2-7 likewise are patentable over Bailey et al.

Claim 10 recites a method of communicating data between an appliance and a power line carrier using a communication interface, wherein the method includes “interfacing the communication interface with a power line carrier...interfacing the communication interface with an appliance...receiving at the communication interface a power line carrier

transmission over the power line carrier, wherein the power line carrier transmission is encrypted and includes authentication data...authenticating the received message packet using the communication interface...decrypting the received message packet using the communication interface...transmitting the decrypted message packet to the appliance.”

Bailey et al. do not describe nor suggest a method of communicating data between an appliance and a power line carrier as recited in Claim 10. Specifically, Bailey et al. do not describe nor suggest the steps of receiving at the communication interface a power line carrier transmission over the power line carrier, wherein the power line carrier transmission is encrypted and includes authentication data, authenticating the received message packet using the communication interface, decrypting the received message packet using the communication interface, and transmitting the decrypted message packet to the appliance. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Bailey et al. merely describes a communication module adapted to be received by an appliance having an appliance controller. The communication module includes a power supply, a communication protocol translator, a power line communication transceiver, and a line driver. The protocol translator translates signals received from the power line communication transceiver into appliance controller signals, and vice versa. Notably, Bailey et al. does not describe nor suggest authentication of signals and decryption of signals. Accordingly, Claim 10 is respectfully submitted to be patentable over Bailey et al.

Claims 11-14 depend from independent Claim 10. When the recitations of Claims 11-14 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 10, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 11-14 likewise are patentable over Bailey et al.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1-7 and 10-14 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 8, 9, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bailey et al. (US 6,731,201) is respectfully traversed.

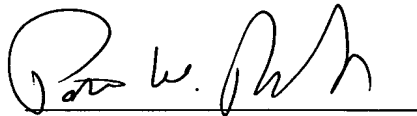
For at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Bailey et al. Claims 8 and 9 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 8 and 9 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 8 and 9 likewise are patentable over Bailey et al.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 10 is submitted to be patentable over Bailey et al. Claim 15 depends from independent Claim 10. When the recitations of Claim 15 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 10, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claim 15 likewise is patentable over Bailey et al.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 8, 9 and 15 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. W. Rasche", written over a horizontal line.

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